

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 03107

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, TW
SUBJECT: ROC POLICY ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

REF: TAIPEI 3013

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH DCM ON ANOTHER MATTER MAY 17, VICE FOREIGN MINISTER CHIEN FU RAISED REFUGEE QUESTION, SAYING HE WISHED TO CLARIFY THE FIGURE OF 2000 THAT KEEPS CROPPING UP FROM TIME TO TIME. DCM INTERJECTED THAT THE FIGURE HAD "CROPPED UP" MOST RECENTLY IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS APRIL 3 NOTE WHICH SAID THAT THE GROC WAS IN THE PROCESS OF REPATRIATING 2000 REFUGEES FROM SRV OVER A PERIOD OF TIME.

2. CHIEN SAID HE WAS NOT TOO CLEAR WHAT THE 2000 REFERRED TO, BUT HE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE NUMBER OF CHINESE IN SAIGON WHO HAD BEEN GIVEN TAIWAN ENTRY PERMITS BEFORE THE FALL OF VIETNAM. HE THEN REFERRED TO AP STORY REPORTED PARA 3A REFTEL THAT GROUP OF CHINESE LEFT SAIGON MAY 13 FOR TAIWAN (VIA BANGKOK) BY CHARTERED AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO CHIEN, THIS GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 150 CHINESE (NOT 190 AS REPORTED BY AP) ARRIVED IN TAIWAN MAY 14. HE DESCRIBED THIS AS SIXTH GROUP SINCE 1975, BRINGING
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THE TOTAL REPATRIATED TO BETWEEN 600 AND 700 PERSONS. THE GROC PLANS TWO MORE FLIGHTS IN JUNE, WHICH SHOULD BRING THE TOTAL BY THE END OF THE ROC FISCAL YEAR (JUNE 30) TO "AT LEAST 1000".

3. CHIEN WAS VAGUE ABOUT WHAT THE GROC PLANNED TO DO AFTER JUNE. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S COMMENT THAT AS WE

UNDERSTOOD GROC POLICY, ALL 2000 POSSESSING TAIWAN ENTRY PERMITS COULD ENTER TAIWAN "AUTOMATICALLY", CHIEN SAID THAT "NO ONE ENTERS TAIWAN AUTOMATICALLY". ICRC FORWARDS NAMES AND OTHER IDENTIFYING DATA TO GROC FOR CLEARANCE BEFORE FLYING ANY REPATRIATES TO BANGKOK. THIS PROCEDURE, ACCORDING TO CHIEN, IS NECESSARY FOR SECURITY REASONS.

4. ALTHOUGH CHIEN STOPPED SHORT OF CONFIRMING THAT THERE ARE POLICY DIFFERENCES ON THE REFUGEE QUESTION BETWEEN MOFA AND THE ROC SECURITY FORCES, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE REPATRIATION OF CHINESE FROM SRV PRESENTED A SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEM. SECURITY OFFICIALS PROCESSING THE MAY 14 GROUP, ACCORDING TO CHIEN, REPORTED THAT THE REPATRIATES WERE UNUSUALLY QUIET ON THE FLIGHT FROM BANGKOK AND DID NOT SEEM HAPPY ABOUT COMING TO TAIWAN. DURING THEIR PROCESSING, THEY WERE EVASIVE AND REACTED WITH SUSPICION WHEN ASKED TO COMPLETE QUESTIONNAIRES.

5. COMMENT: GIVEN UPCOMING CABINET CHANGE, DCM DID NOT PRESS FOR CLARIFICATION OF GROC INTENTIONS AFTER JUNE. CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WE SHOULD HOLD OFF UNTIL NEW CABINET IS IN PLACE AND FUNCTIONING BEFORE PURSUING THIS MATTER. UNGER

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